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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Craft et al.

Serial No: 09/675,352

Filing Date: 9/29/00

Title: METHOD FOR PREGOBING
AN OPTICAL FIBER AND
SYSTEM PRODUCING
OPTICAL FIBER THEREFROM

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: J. Hoffmann

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

#14 C/BM
3-14-03

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the case in a better condition for examination, please enter the following amendments and consider the Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please add new claim 23-26 as follows:

23. A method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform, comprising the steps of:
heating a consolidated optical fiber preform within a chamber of a heating furnace to allow a gob to drop under the influence of heat and gravity and form a pre-optimized tip shape on a lower end of the preform having a tip shape includes a tip taper ratio, defined as tip length divided by radius change over the tip length, of between about 5 to about 12, and
transferring the preform to a draw furnace of a draw apparatus.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of heating includes heating the heating furnace to a temperature between about 1800 °C and 2000 °C.

25. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of heating includes heating the heating furnace to a temperature between about 1900 °C and 1950 °C.

26. The method of claim 23 wherein the pre-optimized tip shape includes a tip taper having a ratio of between about 6 to about 9.